

COPY

BEFORE THE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS
OF THE STATE OF NEVADA

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In The Matter of Charges and
Complaint Against
DONALD CASSIDY, M.D.,
Respondent.

NO. Case No. 08-6105-1

FILED 28 April 2008


EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

COMPLAINT

The Investigative Committee of the Board of Medical Examiners of the State of Nevada, composed of Sohail U. Anjum, M.D. Chairman, and S. Daniel McBride, M.D., Member, by and through Edward O. Cousineau, Deputy General Counsel for the Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners, having a reasonable basis to believe that Donald Cassidy, M.D., hereinafter referred to as "Respondent," has violated the provisions of NRS Chapter 630, hereby issues its formal Complaint, stating the Investigative Committee's charges and allegations, as follows:

1. Respondent is licensed in active status to practice medicine in the State of Nevada, and at all times alleged herein, was so licensed by the Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners, pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 630 of the Nevada Revised Statutes.

2. Patient A was a seventy-four-year-old female at the time of events at issue. Her true identity is not disclosed herein to protect her privacy, but is disclosed in the Patient Designation served on Respondent along with a copy of this Complaint.

3. Patient A was diagnosed with small cell lung cancer in December of 2004. Patient A had lost approximately forty pounds in the months precedent to her diagnosis and presentment to Respondent on December 21, 2004, and several more pounds prior to her second interaction with Respondent on January 14, 2005. After a review of Patient A's medical circumstances, Respondent recommended that Patient A undergo a regimen of vincristine, Adriamycin and Cytosan for treatment

1 of her cancer. Apparently Patient A's insurance would not cover these medications and Respondent
2 was inclined to use a combination of carboplatin and VP-16. A creatinine clearance was accomplished
3 for Patient A and she was started on carboplatin and VP-16 with an AUC of 7. The initiation of the
4 chemotherapy began on January 17, 2005.

5 4. On the morning of January 25, 2005, Patient A was found unconscious and was in
6 ventricular fibrillation by the time emergency personnel arrived on the scene. Patient A was
7 immediately transferred to the hospital where it was there determined that Patient A had suffered a
8 myocardial infarction. A subsequent electroencephalogram showed that Patient A was in a coma. After
9 consultation with Patient A's family, life support was withdrawn and Patient A expired a short time
10 later.

11 5. It is now alleged that Respondent failed to use the reasonable knowledge, skill and
12 expertise ordinarily used in similar circumstances in his care and treatment of Patient A, as the doses of
13 chemotherapy administered to Patient A were excessive and inappropriate based upon Patient A's
14 terminal cancer and other surrounding medical circumstances.

15 6. Section 630.301(4) of the Nevada Revised Statutes provides that malpractice, defined as
16 the failure to use the reasonable knowledge, skill and expertise ordinarily used in similar circumstances, is
17 grounds for discipline.

18 7. Respondent committed malpractice in the course of providing care and treatment of
19 Patient A and is subject to discipline by the Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners as provided in
20 NRS 630.352.

21 WHEREFORE, the Investigative Committee prays:

22 1. That the Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners fix a time and place for a formal
23 hearing;

24 2. That the Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners give Respondent notice of the charges
25 herein against him, the time and place set for the hearing, and the possible sanctions against him;

26 3. That the Board determine what sanctions it determines to impose for the violation or
27 violations committed by Respondent; and

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1 4. That the Board make, issue and serve on Respondent its findings of facts, conclusions of
2 law and order, in writing, that includes the sanctions imposed.

3 DATED this 28th day of April, 2008.

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5 INVESTIGATIVE COMMITTEE OF
6 THE NEVADA STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

7 By: 

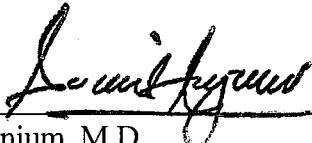
8 Edward O. Cousineau
9 Attorney for the Investigative Committee of the
10 Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners
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VERIFICATION

STATE OF NEVADA)
COUNTY OF CLARK) ss.

Sohail U. Anjum, M.D., having been duly sworn, hereby deposes and states under penalty of perjury that he is the Chairman of the Investigative Committee of the Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners that authorized the Complaint against the Respondent herein; that he has read the foregoing Complaint; and that based upon information discovered in the course of the investigation into a complaint against Respondent, he believes that the allegations and charges in the foregoing Complaint against Respondent are true, accurate, and correct.

Dated this 28th day of April, 2008.

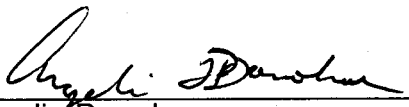

Sohail U. Anjum, M.D.

1 **CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**

2 I hereby certify that I am employed by Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners and
3 that on the 28th day of April 2008, I served a file copy of the COMPLAINT, PATIENT
4 DESIGNATION, NOTICE OF PRE-HEARING CONFERENCE & HEARING, along with copy
5 of appointment letter, by mailing via USPS certified return receipt to the following:

6 Donald Cassidy, M.D.
7 75 Pringle Way Ste. 711
8 Reno, NV 89502

9 Dated this 28th day of April 2008.

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11 _____
12 Angelia Donohoe
13 Legal Assistant
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